



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/804,592

03/19/2004

William Galbraith

P-6007/1

9558

26253 7590 02/18/2010
David W. Highet, VP & Chief IP Counsel
Becton, Dickinson and Company
1 Becton Drive
MC 110
Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417-1880

EXAMINER

YU, MELANIE J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1641

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

02/18/2010

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/804,592	Applicant(s) GALBRAITH, WILLIAM	
	Examiner MELANIE YU	Art Unit 1641	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 December 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5,6 and 55-57 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5,6 and 55-57 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 10 December 2009 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

1. Claims 1, 5, 6 and 55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grahnén et al. (The preparation of Ligandin with Glutathione-S-Transferase Activity

Art Unit: 1641

from Porcine Liver Cytosol by Affinity Chromatography on Bromosulphophthalein-Sepharose, 1977, Eur. J. Biochem., Issue 80, pages 573-580) in view of Spring et al. (US 5,643,721) further in view of Degen et al. (US 5,567,615).

Grahnén et al. teach an apparatus comprising an insoluble support (sepharose column) having a ligand consisting of bromosulfophthalein attached thereto, which is capable of being bindable to albumin, without being exposed to albumin (pg. 574, section: *Preparation of Bromosulphophthalein Affinity Column*). Grahnén et al. fail to teach the ligand attached to the support via an epoxy linkage.

Spring et al. teach ligands are attached to an agarose substrate by an epoxy linker (col. 5, lines 50-55), in order to provide a mixture that dries in a film form on the surface to which it is applied.

Degen et al. teach a ligand having a hydroxyl group (col. 12, line 46) attached to a polymer support via an epoxy linker (col. 12, lines 41-47) and therefore teach attachment of a ligand that is epoxy-activated (epoxy linker activates the support, col. 13, lines 44-46), in order to provide attachment of ligands to a polymer substrate.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include in the apparatus of Grahnén et al., an epoxy linkage between the ligand and the agarose support as taught by Spring et al., in order to provide a simple method of attaching ligands having a hydroxyl group to a substrate by way of a spontaneous covalent attachment as taught by Degen et al. Degen et al. do not specifically teach a bromosulphophthalein ligand being attached to an agarose support. However, Degen et al. teach that epoxy linker attachment is advantageous for

Art Unit: 1641

ligands having a hydroxyl group and Spring et al. teach that an epoxy linker is advantageous to link ligands to an agarose support. Since bromosulphophthalein comprises a hydroxyl group, Degen et al. teach the epoxy linkage would be a simpler and advantageous method of attachment of bromosulphophthalein to a substrate, and Spring et al. teach that it would have been obvious for the substrate that the epoxy linker attaches to, to be an agarose support. Therefore an epoxy linker is advantageously used to attach the ligand to the agarose substrate of Grahnen et al.

Although Degen et al. teach the ligand dissolved in an acidic solvent rather than an alkaline solvent as recited by the instant claims, this claim is a method of making the product and does not appear to provide any further product limitations to the device. Therefore final product of the prior art teaches the same structural limitations as recited in the instant claims. The alkaline solvent is not claimed as part of the apparatus. The rejected claim is drawn to a product, therefore the prior art may teach a different method of making so long the method of making results in the same final product as the rejected claims. The instant claim requires the structural limitation of a ligand attached to an epoxy activated support, which is the same structure taught by Degen et al. as described above. Spring et al. teaches a support having an epoxy linker and Grahnen et al. teach the required bromosulphophthalein ligand attached to a support.

With respect to claims 5, 6 and 55, Grahnen et al. teach that the insoluble support is contained in and supported in a column (affinity column with bromosulphophthalein as a ligand, pg. 574, section: *Preparation of*

Art Unit: 1641

Bromosulphophthalein Affinity Column; and pg. 575, right column, last 2 paragraphs) wherein the support is cross-linked sepharose, which is a type of agarose (pg. 574).

Regarding claims 56 and 57, the alkaline solvent is not claimed as part of the apparatus and is drawn to the solvent used to dissolve the ligand for making the support. The prior art references of Grahnén et al., Spring et al. and Degen et al., as described above, teach the structural limitations required for the claims and therefore read on the claimed invention.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 10 December 2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

3. Applicant argues that Grahnén et al, Spring et al. and Degen et al. fail to teach the ligand dissolved in an alkaline solvent. Applicant further argues that Degen et al. teach the ligand dissolved in an acidic solution and Spring et al. does not teach dissolving ligands in any solution to form an epoxy bond. Applicant further argues that one having ordinary skill would not have been led to use a ligand that has been dissolved in an alkaline solution when reading Degen et al. and would understand that dissolving a ligand in an alkaline solution would be ineffective in activating the matrix of Degen et al.

4. Applicant's argument is not persuasive because the rejected claims are drawn to a product of a device comprising the structural limitations of a bromosulfophthalein ligand attached to a support through an epoxy linker. The limitation argued by applicants is drawn to a pretreatment of the ligand prior to binding to the epoxy linker to

Art Unit: 1641

form the final product. Therefore the alkaline solvent is not part of the claimed final product and does not provide any structural limitations to the final product of the device that differ from the prior art. The prior art teaches the structural limitations required by the claim and therefore reads on the claimed invention. Although Degen et al. teach the ligands that bind to the epoxy activated support dissolved in an acidic solution, the final product results in the same ligand bonded to an epoxy linker. Furthermore, applicant does not suggest how the ligand dissolved in the alkaline solution produces a product that is structurally different from the ligand bonded to the activated epoxy linker of the prior art. Since the final product taught by the combination of prior art references has the same structural limitations that are recited by the instant claims, the claimed invention is obvious over the prior art.

Conclusion

No claims are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MELANIE YU whose telephone number is (571)272-2933. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Shibuya can be reached on (571) 272-0806. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1641

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Melanie Yu/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1641